

OXFAM SCOTLAND BRIEFING FOR SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DEBATE: SCOTLAND'S ENERGY OPPORTUNITY

10 September 2026

Overview

- The combined lifetime emissions from Rosebank oil field and Jackdaw gas field could cause an estimated **65,495 excess heat deaths** by the end of the century, the equivalent to the **entire population of Inverness (Oxfam)**.
- Rosebank alone is estimated to produce **254 million tonnes of carbon dioxide** equivalent over its lifetime.
- Jackdaw is expected to meet only around **2%** of the UK's gas demand over its lifetime.
- Net Zero related industries are estimated to be worth **over £10 billion** to the Scottish economy, supporting **105,000 full-time jobs**.
- **Shell** made **\$9.8 billion** in profits from April-June 2026, **its second highest quarterly earnings on record**.
- **BP** made **\$5.73 billion** in profits from April-June 2026, **more than double** the \$2.5bn of the previous three months.

Over the summer, Scotland has seen wildfires tear through the Cairngorms, burning 10 square miles of moorland and forestry. Record after record has been broken as we have experienced scorching temperatures, rivers drying up and drought declared across large parts of the UK. The impact of climate related disasters has also been felt by communities across the globe. Flash flooding, believed to have been triggered by climate-driven glacial collapse, has washed away entire villages in Nepal and destroyed houses, schools and livelihoods. Nearly 1,300 people have lost their lives, 5,000 remain missing and an estimated 50,000-157,000 people have been impacted.

Last week, the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) reported that rising global temperatures are likely to exceed the internationally agreed 1.5C limit within the next few years, with the climate risks and impacts “intensify[ing] with every extra fraction of a degree and every year”. It also warned that climate impacts will become increasingly severe and potentially irreversible.

There is no time for delay or dilly-dallying. The climate crisis is here and we are seeing the devastating impacts in Scotland and around the world. Scotland must act now, with integrity, ambition and leadership to reduce emissions, increase investment in climate action and expedite the shift to clean energy through a just transition for workers and communities.



PROPOSED PRESUMPTION AGAINST NEW OIL AND GAS

Approving Rosebank and Jackdaw, alongside the wider scaling up of oil and gas exploration and extraction in the declining North Sea basin, is being presented by some as the solution to the dual cost of living and global energy crises. This is a fallacy - we cannot drill our way to lower energy bills, long-term job and energy security, or out of the climate crisis. The majority of fuel from developments such as Rosebank and Jackdaw would not flow directly into British households, nor would it reduce carbon emissions based on overall travel distance. It would be sold on international markets and the UK would continue to import oil and gas. It would therefore have a negligible impact on improving energy security or reducing household bills. However, the combined lifetime emissions from Rosebank oil field and Jackdaw gas field could cause an estimated 65,495 excess heat deaths by the end of the century, the equivalent to the entire population of Inverness ([Oxfam](#)).

We ask MSPs to join us in calling on the Scottish Government to:

- Hold firm on the proposed presumption against new oil and gas exploration and extraction in the Scottish Government's upcoming Energy Strategy.

SHIFTING TO CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY

The best way to increase energy security, reduce emissions, and tackle poverty is to accelerate the managed wind-down of fossil fuel production and the rapid scaling up of clean, renewable energy. Net Zero related industries are already worth an estimated [£10.2 billion](#) to the Scottish economy, supporting 105,000 full-time jobs.

Workers and communities must be at the forefront of the just transition and there should be guaranteed annual budget allocations to fulfil the promised £500 million investment in the Just Transition Fund. The Scottish Government should also immediately increase investment in onshore and offshore wind, solar and tidal and establish the ScotWind Wealth Fund to ensure future generations also benefit.

We ask MSPs to join us in calling on the Scottish Government to:

- Publish its long-awaited Energy Strategy, setting out how Scotland will cut emissions, accelerate the managed wind-down of fossil fuel production and expand clean renewable energy.
- Sustainably fund the Just Transition Fund with money invested in worker transition plans, secure green energy jobs, and skills development and passporting.
- Establish the promised ScotWind Wealth Fund and set out plans to increase community ownership of Scotland's renewable resources.

MAKE POLLUTERS PAY

Companies should not pocket gross profits at the expense of consumers. In three months alone (April-June 2026), Shell and BP's combined profits reached over [\\$15.5 billion](#). That's more than the Scottish Government's annual [education, justice and housing budget](#) combined. Meanwhile, nearly [29%](#) of all households in Scotland live in fuel poverty, nearly double the legal 2030 fuel poverty target of 15%. These figures are likely to grow as annual energy bills are expected to increase by [£247](#) in January 2027.

Fossil fuel giants, which are making eye watering profits while families struggle to pay their bills, should pay for their pollution and contribute towards measures which both reduce poverty and emissions. The Scottish Government should therefore stop calling for the UK Government to scrap the Energy Profits Levy, which raised nearly £3 billion in 2024/25, and should instead support a Permanent Excess Profits Tax. The Scottish Government should also use the levers at its disposal to make polluters pay, such as through the Private Jet Tax. The money should then be invested in helping to bring down household bills, make public transport more affordable and homes more energy efficient, support secure long term green jobs, and protect communities in Scotland and internationally from the impacts of the climate crisis.

We ask MSPs to join us in calling on the Scottish Government to:

- Call on the UK Government to replace its Energy Profits Levy with a permanent Excess Profits Tax.
- Set Scotland's planned private jet tax sky high – at least 10 times higher than the existing Higher Rate of the Air Passenger Duty – in the upcoming Scottish Budget.

You can learn more about how you can help build A Fairer Future for Scotland and Oxfam Scotland's priorities for the first year of the Scottish Parliament [here](#).

For further information

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About Us

Oxfam GB is a partner to communities around the world, working in around 80 countries to tackle the inequalities that lead to poverty. Our work is built on the priorities of working for humanitarian justice, climate justice and valuing all women's work.